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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/091,380	03/04/2002	Winfried Moll	2001P80039 US	9968

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Martin A. Farber
Suite 473
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New York, NY 10017

EXAMINER

PATEL, TULSIDAS C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 01/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/091,380

Applicant(s)

MOLL, WINFRIED

Examiner

T. C. Patel

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-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on th cover she t with the correspond nce address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23, 25-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

General Status

1. This is a **First Action** on the Merits for RCE. Claims 11-29 are pending in the case.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 15, line 3, recites “between two contact pins”, it is not clear if the two contacts pins are contact pins already recited in parent claim 11 (pins of electronic component and/or plug part), or these are new pins, not recited before. (The recitation may be changed to – between two of the contact pins—to provide proper antecedent basis).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 11-13, 16, 18-20, 21 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Maue et al. US 5,785,532).

Maue et al. in figure 2 and 3, discloses an instrument panel for a motor vehicle comprising at least one electronic component 102, 106, which is arranged on a carrier 114, electrical leads 80 are conductively connected to the electronic component (via pins), whereas the carrier has protruding contact pins 130 (pins 130 of carrier, to the left, in figure 3), which are electrically connected to the electrically connected to the electronic component and as seen in figure 2, the electrical leads are attached to the contact pins. For claims 12 and 13, the leads being flexible can be bent and are capable of having longitudinal extent perpendicular to the pins and connection between the pins and the leads is material (pins are attached to the sockets and the sockets in the connector are attached to the leads). For claim 20, the connector body acts as a guide, which is attached to the carrier. For claim 21, the pins are facing away from the electronic component and for claim 25 the leads are stretched along the guide element or connector body.

6. Claims 11-13, 15-21 and 25-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Viertel et al. (US 5,203,623).

Viertel et al. in figure 1 and 2, discloses an instrument panel for a motor vehicle comprising at least one electronic component 29, which is arranged on a carrier (plastic body of visor and micro switch), electrical leads 32, 33 are conductively connected to the electronic component via pins (pins not numbered), whereas the carrier has protruding contact pins (pins of micro-switch), which are electrically connected to the electronic component and the

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electrical leads are attached to the contact pins. For claims 12 and 13, the leads have longitudinal extent perpendicular to the pins and connection between the pins and the leads is material. For claims 15, 26, 27 and 26, the leads are extended between a pin of an illuminating device 13 and a pin of a micro switch 29. For claim 17, the body of the visor contains foam and the leads or wires are supported by the foam. For claims 18 and 19, two leads are shown and the unit is received as pre-mountable unit. For claim 20, the plastic body of the carrier acts as a guide. For claims 21 and 29, the pins are facing away from the electronic component 29 and for claim 25, the leads are stretched along the guide body.

7. Claims 11-13, 18-23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ha (US 5,584,208).

Ha in figure 1, discloses an instrument panel 39 for motor vehicle comprising at least one electronic component 20, which is arranged on a carrier (body of speedometer 20), electrical leads 22, 26 which are conductively connected to the electronic component, wherein the carrier (body of speedometer 20) has protruding contact pins (not numbered, one visible in the figure) and the electrical leads 22, 26 are attached to the contact pins. For claims 12 and 13, the leads being flexible can be bent and are capable of having longitudinal extent perpendicular to the pins and connection between the pins and the leads is material. For claim 20, the connector body acts as a guide, which is attached to the carrier. For claims 21-23, the pins are on the other side of speedometer.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Viertel et al. (US 5,203,623).

As discussed above, Viertel et al. satisfies the limitation of claims 1-15 and 17-20. In so far as leads are wound around the pins, is concerned, though soldering of leads to the pins is disclosed, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to wind the lead ends around the pins before soldering to the pin so as to obtain better electrical connection between the lead ends and the pins.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claim 24 is allowed.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments filed 11/28/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant added claims 26-29. The examiner has rejected all the claims except claim 24. The previous rejection on the basis of reference of Maue et al. '532 as well as that based on Viertel et al. '623 has been maintained. These references also satisfy some of the newly added claims.

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The Applicant has argued that the Maue reference does not disclose the electrical lines to be connected to the pins 130. Figures 2 and 3, discloses the pins 130 of substrate or carrier 114 are inserted into the connector bodies 132 (figure 3) and connector 26, which is connected to the wires harness 80 (figure 2), and the connector 26 is inserted into the body of connector 132, thus the pins 130 are directly connected to the wires. In reference to the remarks related to Viertel et al. '623 reference, the applicant has argued that the micro-switch is fitted onto pins 28 and in this way is fastened to a trough 11. The applicant has also argued that the pins 28 of Viertel et al. are not electrically conductive. The applicant appears to have misread the rejection. The Examiner has not considered pins 28 at all, pins 28 being mounting pins. The examiner has considered pins (not numbered) of the micro-switch 29, which are shown in figure 2 and to which wires 32 and 33 are connected.

The applicant should consider adding the limitations such as “the protruding pins are parallel to each other;” and “the carrier being planar and the electrical leads are generally parallel to the surface of the carrier” as shown in Applicant’s figure 4. Such limitation would receive favorable consideration.

Change of Address

1. Effective May 1, 2003, the United States Patent and Trademark Office has a new Commissioner for Patents address. Correspondence in patent-related matters to organizations reporting to the Commissioner for Patents must now be addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Hand-delivered of responses should be brought to:

Crystal Plaza-4, Fourth floor (receptionist)
2201 South Clark Place, Arlington, Virginia

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to T. C. Patel whose telephone number is (703) 308-1736 OR (703) 272-2098 (after January 30, 2004). The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (703) 308-2710 OR (703) 272-2092 (after January 30, 2004). The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.



T. C. Patel
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839

tcp
December 23, 2003